



FOXWOOD ACADEMY

Foxwood Academy Newsletter Spring
Term 2026

Foxwood KS3 Phase - January 2026

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

We would like to wish all our families a very happy New Year and hope you were able to enjoy a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday spent with loved ones. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and see them settle back into routines so positively.

As we begin the new term, students have returned refreshed and ready to continue their learning. We are already seeing smiles, enthusiasm and a willingness to re-engage with

familiar routines and new challenges. This is always a valuable time to rebuild confidence and support children as they transition back into school life after the holidays.

The spring term offers many exciting learning opportunities, and we are looking forward to building on the progress made so far this year. As always, learning will be carefully planned to support each child's individual needs, while encouraging independence, communication and enjoyment.

We recognise that returning to routine after the Christmas break can sometimes be challenging. Please be assured that staff are on hand to support students' well-being and help them feel settled, safe and secure.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a positive and productive term ahead and working closely with you throughout the year.

Key Dates

Please see the spring term dates below for details of upcoming events, celebrations and holidays. You can also find up-to-date information, including letters and reminders, on the school calendar:

 [Foxwood Academy Calendar](#)

Communication

As always, we value strong communication between home and school. You can keep in touch with us through your child's planner, the school website (<https://foxwood.academy/>), annual reviews, parents' evenings, and our half-termly Sway updates. Class Dojo continues to be used in classes 3F and 3O for daily updates and sharing achievements.

If you'd like to discuss anything further, please contact the school office and the relevant member of staff will be happy to get back to you.

Well-being

As the days start to get longer and the weather begins to improve, there are more opportunities for children to enjoy fresh air, movement, and outdoor activities — all of which support wellbeing and help them feel energised and ready to learn.

If you feel your child would benefit from any additional support, please don't hesitate to get in touch — we are always here to help.

We really appreciate your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure every student feels safe, happy, and able to thrive at school. We're looking forward to a positive and productive term ahead!

Safeguarding and Support



The safety and wellbeing of every child at Foxwood is our top priority. We want all our pupils to feel safe, cared for, and supported every day. Our staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection, and we work together with families and other professionals to make sure children are protected from harm.

If you're ever worried about your child or another pupil, please don't hesitate to speak to one of our safeguarding team — we're here to help.

You can find useful information and links on our website:

Safeguarding Information

After School Clubs



After school clubs start this week. We offer a variety of after-school clubs for KS3 students, providing a fantastic opportunity for them to build social connections, enjoy new activities, and grow their independence.

- **Monday:** Computer Club or Sensory Club
- **Tuesday:** Indoor Sports Club or Film Club
- **Thursday:** Obstacle Course or Arts and Crafts Club

We strongly encourage all students to take part and make the most of these activities, as clubs offer valuable opportunities to build confidence, develop social skills and try new experiences in a supportive environment. There are still spaces available at all clubs, so if your child has not yet signed up and you would like them to take part, we would love to welcome them.

Key Dates



Please see a list of the key dates below for this half term. There will be more things happening as the term progresses and we will of course let you know about these events.

16.1.26 - Nottingham Playhouse Performance in school of 'The Little Mermaid'

21.1.26 - Virtual Parents Evening

11.2.26 - School Photographs

13.2.26 - Break Up for Half Term

23.2.26 - Return to school

E-Safety



Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, both in and outside of school. By age 11, around 91% of children own a smartphone or tablet and go online daily, making it vital that they understand the risks of the digital world.

Children today are tech-savvy but highly vulnerable. Risks such as inappropriate content, scams, cyberbullying, and online grooming are constantly evolving. Social media can add extra pressure, and even the best parental controls aren't always foolproof. Balancing your child's safety and privacy online can feel overwhelming, especially as many of us didn't grow up with this level of technology.

While online platforms can be fun and social, they can also affect children's wellbeing, leading to anxiety, low self-esteem, or harmful online experiences. That's why it's so important for young people to develop safe, balanced habits online.

Through our **Preparing for Adulthood** curriculum, alongside **Computing, E-Safety, and PSD** lessons, we teach students how to navigate online spaces safely and responsibly.

To support you at home, the NSPCC offers excellent resources and advice to help start important conversations about online safety with your child. You can find them here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> and

https://foxwoodacademy-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/jhutchinson_foxwood_notts_sch_uk/ERvT4AjP5npJrASUhk3J4psB0mPf87ulmegipvQwOhvhnw?e=d6t0dd

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/?paged=1>

Together, we can help our children stay safe, informed, and resilient as they explore the digital world.

'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'



Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their potential. The Department for Education is clear that every day in school matters – even a small amount of absence can have a significant impact on learning, progress, and long-term outcomes.

Regular attendance not only supports your child's academic progress, but also helps them to build friendships, develop social skills, and feel part of the school community. We all want the very best for your child, and ensuring they are in school every day, on time, gives them the best possible chance to succeed.

Attendance at Foxwood continues to be excellent and above the national average. Thank you to you all for sharing the belief that attendance in school is vital. As parents and carers,

you have a strong understanding that your child being at school is a priority alongside a legal requirement.

It is essential that children and young people get the most out of their school experience. We aim for students to be at school **95%** of the time. Attendance below 90% is classed by the Department for Education as *Persistent Absence* and is a serious concern. If your child's attendance falls to this level, we will work closely with you to understand any barriers affecting their attendance. Our aim is to provide the right support where needed, so that together we can help your child attend school regularly and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Foxwood has systems in place to pick up attendance concerns quickly. Your child's tutor team monitor attendance closely and as soon as it drops below 97%, staff will identify ways to support where this is required. If attendance continues to decline, you will receive a letter to inform you of this. In certain cases, a support plan will be put in place to support the young person to get them back into school.

We do understand that there are times when children will be absent from school due to illness and other exceptional circumstances. If you are ever in any doubt whether to send them or not, please don't hesitate to get in touch for support. If your child has a medical appointment, please arrange this for later in the day, to avoid missing too much learning time. Hospital appointments might be more challenging to arrange and we do understand this. It is advisable to mention to the GP or hospital that your child's attendance in school is important and this may support getting a later appointment. If your child needs to miss school for a medical appointment, you must send the appointment letter to reception prior to the appointment so we have this for our records and to safeguard our young people.

Non-medical appointments must be made out of school hours.

Holidays in term time are not classed as exceptional circumstances and can lead to fines. There are 175 non-school days each year when children are not required to be in school. Please do minimise disruption to learning by taking holidays in the designated breaks.

If you have any concerns around your child's attendance and feel you need additional support, please do get in touch with the Attendance Lead nikki.glover@foxwood.notts.sch.uk. Any day-to-day enquiries about attendance, please do discuss this with your child's tutor team.

Thank you to you all for your continued support.

Absence from the Academy and Medical Appointment Letters



If your child is not able to attend school due to illness, please ensure that you contact the Academy on the first day of absence first thing in the morning. Each day your child is absent, a phone call to the Academy is required. If contact is not made first thing in the morning, you will receive a reminder text along with a follow up phone to ensure safeguarding.

If your child has a medical appointment that can't be arranged outside of the school day, a copy of the appointment letter must be sent through to the office prior to the day of the appointment. This is in line with the Department for Education's 'Working Together to Improve Attendance' statutory guidance and is to help us keep accurate attendance records, so please provide proof of medical appointments, such as a doctor's note or appointment confirmation, when your child is absent for a medical reason. This ensures the absence is properly recorded as excused.